The South African Library for the Blind

GRAHAMSTOWN

BRAILLE BOOKS

MOON TYPE BOOKS

MUSIC

TALKING BOOK RECORDS

26th ANNUAL REPORT

1st January, 1949—31st December, 1949.

The South African Library for the Blind.

Patron-in-Chief and Patroness-in-Chief:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE G. BRAND VAN ZYL and H.E. MRS. VAN ZYL.

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Council:

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MR. A. F. LILFORD.
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THE REV. P. A. O'BRIEN.
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Hon. Treasurer: MR. P. WHITELEY.

Hon. Secretary and Librarian: MISS J. E. WOOD.

Auditors:

A. R. WHITELEY & CO., Chartered Accountants.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the S.A. Library for the Blind was held on Friday, May 12th, in St. George's Hall, Mr. C. E. Espin, Chairman of the Council, presiding over a large and representative attendance.

Opening the proceedings, he said it was his privilege on behalf of Miss Wood and the Council to extend a cordial welcome to them all. The annual meeting was always looked upon as a family gathering and it was very ensouraging to see so many of the family present.

Continuing, he said: "I do tell you that this Library stills wants publicity. In every town and village throughout the Union there should be some person taking an active interest in the Library: one who knows the conditions and the needs of those among whom he lives, and for whom this service is meant."

They were honoured, he said in having that afternoon as their guest speaker Miss Whitaker, of Kingwilliamstown, one of the leading women in the nursing profession in South Africa. She had lost her sight in tragic circumstances some years ago and it was a great privilege to have her to speak to them. She was the third of their guest speakers who had lost their sight, and followed the late Advocate Bowen and Mr. Thompson, of Johannesburg.

Miss Whitaker would tell them how the blind valued the opportunity to enjoy some of the pleasures which other people who are normal can enjoy, and of those pleasures there was none more enjoyable than reading—and reading is what this library supplied to the blind. "It is the only library of its kind in Africa and it deserves support," said Mr. Espin.

Miss Wood then read her annual report and Mr. Whiteley commented on the financial statement, which will appear with the report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Council.—We regret that Father O'Brien resigned on leaving Grahamstown and that Mr. Lilford is leaving us for the same reason.

Auditor.—Mr. E. A. Wagstaff audited our books for some years and has now returned to England. We much appreciated his kindness and help.

Deaths.—We were sorry to hear of the death of Father Kennedy. He was a member of the first Library Council in 1924 and served for eleven years till he left Grahamstown.

We have lost two very good friends in Mrs. Alfred Marks and Mrs. Vernal. Both of them were Braille experts. Mrs. Marks learnt Braille from Mrs. R. P. Hannam, who was one of the teachers at St. Dunstan's after the First World War. Mrs. Marks proved a very efficient teacher and trained Miss Blackwell to take over the work. Mrs. Vernal became one of Miss Blackwell's star pupils and did many books for the Library and sometimes did teaching.

She was such an expert that was frequently consulted on knotty points. She was a great sufferer after a fall in which she fractured a hip and in 1945 she was obliged to give up Braille. She never lost her interest in the Library and left £100 to the funds.

THE STAFF.

There have been several changes on the staff. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Miss Ross who returned to Scotland. She has continued her Braille and passed a test with distinction. She corresponds in Braille with some of our readers. Mrs. Ingall has resigned, but frequently lends a hand. Mrs. Fernandez is now on the permanent staff and she and Miss Levick and Mrs. Webb carry on in the Braille and Moon department. Mrs. Winter-Moore is in charge of the

Talking Books, but when she is on holiday Mrs. Webb carries on. We are very grateful for voluntary help from Miss Spurling, Miss Emslie, Miss Philip, Mrs. Westall, Mrs. Winlaw and Dr. Irving. Miss Espin keeps the books and does the secretarial work. Unfortunately when she was In East London on holiday, she fell and broke her hip and was in the Frere Hospital for some months. We were glad to welcome her back in October and to find she had made a wonderful recovery. Mrs. Rook and Mrs. Winter-Moore did her work while she was away. We are pleased to see Miss Krause much improved in health.

VISITORS.

Our visitors included seven bishops, Mrs. Russell, President of the National Council of Women, and Captain and Mrs. B. G. Godlonton. Dr. Albert Hertzog was another interested visitor and used his influence to get us a permit to import Talking Book machines.

Mr. Hullah, who has transcribed many books for students at Oxford and Cambridge, was able to give some useful hints on Braille points, and his sister, Mrs. Paddon, who enabled us to get the new coloured labels for our collecting boxes, also visited the Library. Among readers was Mr. Jock Ellis, a St. Dunstaner, who edited the "Tembani Times" and has now joined the staff of St. Dunstan's, lecturing in different towns.

One visitor expressed astonishment at the extent of the Library and the number of books and workers. She had visualised "one shelf of books with one person in charge." She was thirty years behind the times for that is a picture of the Library as it was in 1919.

TRANSCRIBERS.

We are much indebted to our transcribers for their splendid work.

Miss Canning:
"Best Dog Stories." 5 vols.
"No Outspan." 5 vols.

"The Bishop's Mantle." 6 vols.
"Learn to Speak Afrikaans" (by special request). 1 vol.
"These Old Shades." 5 vols.

This last book was begun by Miss Bishop, but she could not finish it, as owing to ill health she was obliged to return to England. She had also helped us with teaching and proofreading.

Miss Steinhobel:

"Blindness His Servant" (a memoir of Walter Bowen). 1 vol. "The Skipper's Wooing." 3 vols. "A Square Deal." 3 vols. "Cry the Beloved Country." 4 vols. "Kate Hardy." 3 vols.

"The Big Fisherman." 10 vols. "So Few are Free." 4 vols.

Miss Steinhobel worked so hard that she had to give up for a time to rest her hands.

Miss Watson re-copied:

"Patricia Brent, Epinster." 4 vols. "Weish Singer." 6 vols.

Miss Watson also edits and brailles her popular magazine "Braille Notes and News" sending us three copies quarterly. In addition she does braille proof-reading and teaching.

Miss Betty Schutte and Mr. and Mrs. Mostert are working at Afrikaans Braille books for us.

The Guild of Church Braillists and the S.P.C.K. also sent hand-brailled books.

BOOKS.

At the end of the year we had 12,905 volumes, an increase of 1,000 in spite of the fact that 100 were discarded. There were 770 gifts from all sources. 500 comprising the valuable "Greenwood Memorial."

Among books bought in Braille were:--

Fiction.—"Murder on the Orient,"
"Most Secret," "The Headmistress."

Biography.—"Unforgettable, Unforgetten," "The Roosevelt I Knew."

Travel.--"The Remarkable Expedidition."

History. — Winston Churchill's "The Gathering Storm."

Games.—-"Russians Play Chess" (50 master games).

Plays. — "Barretts of Wimpole Street," "The Housemaster."

Moon Type Fiction included "The Ship" "Caravan," "Strong Poison."

The number of volumes issued in 1949 was 7,986.

Loan Books from the National Library, London.—Approximately 200 volumes were sent on loan. They include old books and new in Braille and in Moon type. (Occasionally they are duplicates of books we have bought and those we return immediately.) This supplement to our supply of books is a great help in coping with our more voracious readers. For this privilege we pay a subscription of 10s. per head, and for the fifty using them this amounts to £25.

MAGAZINES.

Some 6,349 magazines were issued luring the year. We take 39 magazines,: some from England and Scotland and some from the U.S.A. We buy several copies of the more popular ones and readers often send on their own copies. Two magazines are produced in this country. One "Die Nuwe Pionier." which is bilingual from Worcester comes once a fortnight; the other, "Braille Notes and News" from Marjorie Watson. To both of these we make grants towards the cost of production. "Punch" has not been produced since the war. We had a number of old bound copies and have sent them to the Hillcombe Holiday home where readers enjoy them.

Braille Music and Theory.—We have quite a good selection of these and are very much in demand by students and others. If requested, we buy special music from the National Institute, London.

MUSIC RECORDS.

We have bought 115 more records of good music. Mrs. Westell kindly gives one morning a week to help in this department. Among the new records bought are:— Bach's Brandenburg Concerto, music by de Bussy, Bizet. Tchaikovsky, etc.

Altogether twelve readers are enjoying this music: three of them are new borrowers. I mentioned in my last report that the first record of the Kreutzer Sonata had been broken. An anonymous donor in Alice promptly made this loss good, sending a complete set.

Mr. Gant very kindly gave us a gramophone and records. We have given the gramophone to the New Brighton Workshop where it is giving much pleasure.

Games and Special Appliances.— We are sometimes asked for games and so have ordered Braille cards, Lexicon, Dominoes, Reversi and the Brahma Puzzle from England. From the Johannesburg society we were able to get some Braille watches and from Bloemfontein some self-threading needles.

READERS.

The individual readers number 312. including six juveniles. There were 47 new readers. (Nineteen others were sent primers and Moon instructions, but have not learnt to read.) Three readers died.

We send books and music to three schools, often books for study purposes.

Several students from Worcester are now at universities. One is working for a diploma in music; another for LL.B.

We have had many letters of appreciation. A doctor writes how grateful he is "for the year of unfailing service" and adds "I have been getting the greatest pleasure out of those old favourites "The Vicar of Wakefield" and "Pride and Prejudice." A girl who has been working for six and a half years at the printing department of the Worcester School for the Blind is doing Afrikaans books for us. She writes of the happiness "the Library brings to all the readers."

Mr. Marais, of Krugersdorp, won a first class award for a standing lamp at the Maritzburg show. He makes all sorts of things, such as smokers' stands, occasional tables, and takes orders for them. He very kindly sent bedside lamps to three members of the staff in appreciation of the reading matter which he enjoyed so much.

One reader writes: "If I but close my eyes, I can live again through all the happy hours provided by the books you have sent to me."

One reader apologised for returning a book he had chosen, but didn't like and said: "I think it must be as difficult for you to choose a book for me as it would be for me to choose a hat for my wife."

We much regret the inconvenience caused to readers through certain trains being cut off. Books sent by goods train when no passenger train is running often arrive after those posted a day later. This means that volumes arrive in the wrong order.

TALKING BOOK MACHINES

Through the generosity of Miss Harvey, of Barkly Bridge, we were able to buy forty Talking Book machines, and the Union-Castle Company helped by bringing them out freight free. The machines arrived in eight cases, and Messrs. Edge and Company kindly stored them for us. After being tested each machine had to be re-packed. We only bought two clockwork machines, but in future must order more for the benefit of those readers who have no current. Most of the readers are delighted to have the machines. machine knitter finds his work less monotonous now that he can listen to an interesting book while he knits.

Eight hundred and forty-four records of books were bought: some from England, some from the U.S.A. In addition there were 84 records of "The Reader's Digest," which are eventually returned to America to be re-pulped.

There were 50 breakages as compared with 73 the year before.

At the end of the year we owned 12,015 records (768 book titles). Among the most popular are: "Bishop's Mantle," "The Prisoner," "Laughing House." "Nanking Road" and "Villette."

Records circulated numbered 32,583, an increase of 3,390 on the previous year. There were 31 new readers and 116 individual readers using the records. In addition three institutions used them.

One reader, Mr. F. A. M. Wayland died. During seven and a half years he read 5,088 records.

I am optimistic enough to think that by this time next year we shall be having Afrikaans records made by a radio engineer at the Worcester School for the Blind.

Collecting Boxes.— Collecting boxes in public libraries have again helped us considerably and we are specially grateful to the librarians who take so much interest. The members of the staff of the Kimberlev Public Library handed over the prize money won by their library float at the Kimberley The Spring Carnival. of Library had a display Braille literature and writing apparatus and a special collection in connection with "Our Blind Day."

Of the collections, Aliwal North and the State Library, Pretoria, head the list with £11 each, and Kingwilliamstown, Idutywa and Wynberg come next with over £8 each.

Municipalities.—At our last annual meeting, the Mayor (Mr. H. Mather-Pike) suggested that more municipalities should contribute to the funds of this Library, which serves all the municipalities in the Union. We are very grateful to the Mayor and to the Town Clerk (Mr. Lagrange) who drew up and circulated appeals. Our funds have benefitted by over £130 from nineteen municipalities, sixteen of these being new subscribers.

We are very grateful to all who helped us so generously, private donors and public bodies. A list of all monies received will be printed with this report.

GRANTS.

Grants have come from the Social Welfare Department of the four Provinces, the S.A. National Council for the Blind, St. Dunstan's (S.A.), two divisional councils, the Grahamstown Bowling Club (Tribe Pairs), a number of societies (including five working for the blind), four schools (including the V.G.H.S. and the D.S.G.). Miss Laura Mullins made rosettes sold at the St. Andrew's sports.

The Women's League of Help and their collectors again arranged a street collection.

Miss Harvey handed over a bequest of £800 ear-marked for Talking Books and equipment.

We received a bequest of £250 in the estate of the late C. F. King.

Gifts in kind include the valuable collection of books and music presented, with shelving, by Mrs. Harry Greenwood in memory of her lusband. These have been set up in one of the upstairs rooms and will be known as "The Greenwood Memorial."

Mr. Attwood has given us a number of American books; and other readers have given us books, Pandas and magazines.

Locally the E.P. Guardian, Loan and Investment Company, the Standard Bank and the Press have continued their practical help, for which we are most grateful.

It is difficult to estimate how much we owe to the staff of the Post Office. When you read that so many thousands of books, magazines, Talking Books and music records are issued you must remember that the Post Office handles them coming in and going out, and in addition many letters, Christmas cards and post cards. We thank them heartly.

ADDRESS BY MISS ENID WHITAKER.

It is a very great honour for me to be here this afternoon-I hope I won't be quite inadequate. I had thought of making a few Praille notes, but fortunately my Braille machine gave in. I say fortunately because I am not very bright at Braille. Mr. Espin has referred to the joy of being able to read again, to which I agree, but personally I think Braille is the "world's worst." I was told in the very early days that the one thing blind people have in their favour is to snuggle into bed and read under the blankets, but I find by the time you have managed to turn a page all the draught in the world is under your blankets

It is just two years since I visited St. Dunstan's, a place of great hope and strenuous training. The home itself is built in the form of an airplaneeverything is housed in that building -work, play and all crafts-and I was most interested in every single corner. There were at that time 150 students there and roughly the same number of staff, but the latter were not all housed in that building. There were various working parties, Braille, typewriting, basket making, carpet making, etc., all that the blind learn to do: there were offices, lounge and quarters for the staff. The students were all in one building. There were plastic and shoe repairing departments, and a very lovely little church. I was very interested on the last day I was there in watching a darts match and also when a rather new instructor said one of those throwing was "T.B.," poor devil, I thought, blind and tubercular! But then I learned that "TP." meant totally blind, and "S.S." semi-sighted, and "B.L." borderline: there were many borderline cases caused by long imprisonment in concentration camps, where their general condition was below par for a very long period. Shooting was another great recreation, and the best shooter was "T.B." Shooting is helped by radar—the closer one gets to the target bells ring.

AT EAST GRINSTEAD.

In August, 1947, I had about two pints of sulphuric acid thrown in my face. I was flown to London where I spent ten days at Moorfields Hospital and was then transferred to East Grinstead, where plastic surgery is performed; I was told nothing more could be done about my sight, it had to clear itself up, but the burns on my face, chest and arms were treated plastically.

East Grinstead was originally a small cottage hospital: during this last war it was built on to; Canada and America sent a lot of cash along. The Canadian money was for plastic work and the American for theatres. It was very well equipped. I don't know whether any of you have read "The Last Enemy" by Richard Hilary, who was shot down and nursed at East Grin stead Hospital—he mentions a Sister who also looked after me.

Another interesting thing about East Grinstead is that the Guinea Pig Club was started there. There is no election to this club except that anyone can belong to it who has been shot down in flames and had plastic work done. They have an annual dinner which is a very uproarious affair. Just before I got there they had had their annual dinner; one South African member who was flying to Johannesburg next day still had a headache when he got there

PIONEER OF BLIND WELFARE

I was at East Grinstead for five months and at the beginning of January was definitely told that nothing further could be done about my sight. They tried to get me into St. Dunstan's, but that was impossible. I was positively sick, because I had never heard of anywhere else, but it was then I contacted the National Institute for the blind. Mr. Eager, the

secretary-general and the assistant secretary came to see me. Mr. Eager's opening words reassured me; he went on to tell me of two rehabilitation centres: Torquay and Goring-on-Thames. Which did I prefer? Very luckily I said Goring-on-Thames; I said luckily because if I had not done so I should not have met a very great man—Sir Beechcroft Towse.

Appropriately Sir Beechcroft's birthday was on St. George's Day and he, like St. George, slew his great dragon. Blind at the age of 39 he made up his mind to help other blind people conquer, their disability, He was in India, I believe, and in South Africa during the Boer War with the Gordon Highlanders. Early in the campaign he rescued his colonel under fire at Modderpoort or Modder River. Later on in the campaign he and twelve other men held out against 150 Boers, but he was wounded, shot through the head. He lost his sight but gained a second V.C.—one of the two in this world.

When convalescing his wife said she would come out to fetch him, but he cabled her not to come and had always been thankful she had not done so, because by the time he got to England he was able to find his way round the ship entirely alone. He made up his mind then he was going to do all in his power to help others to conquer their disability. He got in touch with the British and European Association for the Blind and reorganised and revitalised the association.

He was the pioneer of blind welfare in those days—realise I am telling the story of what he said and what others told me. In 1914 his big chance came. At a special meeting of the National Institute for the Blind it was emphasised that of all the war casualties $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of them were blind and the N.I.B. must be ready to receive those men who had been blinded. It was suggested that a house be bought, furnished and

equipped The house that was bought happened to be called St. Dunstan's. It was not named for any patron saint for the blind. The committee asked Sir Beechcroft to take over the running of St. Dunstan's, but he preferred not; he would rather be on the scene of battle. Mr. Arthur Pearson volunteered. He was afterwards knighted.

Sir Beechcroft did great work. He was able to get hlinded men across to England rather more rapidly would otherwise have been the case. In particular there was one man who was blinded and shot through mouth and had lost his identity disc. The authorities did not know how to find out about this man. Sir Beechcroft sat by the bedside of the man. He said: "We have both lost our sight; we both have ears and I have speech. I'll tap out the alphabet on your knee and when I come to first letter of your name move your knee; and so on, until he had found out the man's name, address, relations and all that was necessary to know. Sir Beechcroft's patience was rewarded.

While in France he collected a spot of gas himself. It was that, in the last three years of his life, that kept him in bed.

St. Dunstan's and N.I.B. ran together until 1925; now they are entirely separate.

A GREAT MAN.

In Fehruary I drove through the lovely Thaines Valley to Goring; as I drove through the gates of Long Meadow I felt an extraordinary peace, entirely due to the personality of that great man, then bedridden. I was very honoured in the three months I was there. I was taken three times up to see him at his request, when he was too ill to see other people. I was extraordinarily lucky. The reason was that South Africa was the last country he had seen. He had an opportunity in 1926 to go out with Earl Haig, but

Earl Haig fell ill and Sir Beechcroft deputised.

One day when I arrived, he said: "Did you feel the lion skin when you came in-?" "I did," I said. He said: "I shot it. I fired the shot, another man aimed the rifle."

He also went to the Victoria Falls, and apparently in the Rain Forest he said to his valet: "Well, Mac, what do you think of the Falls?" "Verra wet, sir!" was the reply.

One of his great activities was cutting down branches of trees. He had a great weakness for trimming trees, at which he was very successful, until one day, unfortunately, he cut down the branch of a tree he was sitting on! The family sat on him.

In 1941 Lord Nuffield gave Sir Beechcroft £10,000 for a rehabilitation centre for civilian blind. Sir Beechcroft tried to find various places, but finally decided to turn over his house "Long Meadow" for that purpose, living himself in a separate wing or flat. It was called the "Queen Elizabeth Home of Recovery," but when we talked ahout the rehabilitation centre, we ourselves never called it "The Home of Recovery" but the "Home of Discovery."

was very easy to settle down into that life. There were three members of staff who taught and helped us in every possible way and their friendliness and natural treatment was wonderful. Their idea was as they said, and as Sir Beechcroft always said, to treat blindness as a nuisance, and not as a calamity. The house itself was really rather amazing. Sir Beechcroft was a great hunter and there were trophies over the place. There was a Himalayan bear in the lounge, (I hated it; it was very hairy and one tripped over its huge head). There were lions' skins, assegais, spears, etc. made very good landmarks when you got used to them. The first evening the lady warden came up and said: "Is there anything I can do for you?" And in the morning I said: "Is there anything I can do for you?" And she said: "You can make your bed if you can; but if you can't don't worry." Make a led. It sounds simple. I had made thousands of beds, being a nurse; but that morning the sheets had eight corners and the blankets were perfectly round. Even after more practice one would find queer things in one's bed that had slipped in in some mysterious fashion, from the bed-rail, where one had put them for easy finding.

WRITING A LETTER

Our days were very full. We were out of bed at 7.30, breakfast at nine. I had the only single room in building; the other rooms contained two, three, or four people. It was a very little room 7 ft. x. 6 ft., and standing by the bed one could reach either side, but the main thing it was all my own. Actually it was one of the maid's rooms in the days when there were maids. To get down to the bathroom was not so easy at first. At the top of each flight of stairs there was always a gate, one never fell down stairs. There was a gate exactly opposite my door, but the stairs were rather spiral, five fairly straight, three very curved and two straight. After breakfast we repaired to the workroom, where we did basket-making, plastic work, etc., all the usual things one does During that time we had half an hour's Braille and half an hour's typewriting. Typewriting they were very keen on getting us to know as soon as possible, largely for independence in letter writing. For six months I had rever written a letter. They guaranteed that within a month we could write a letter.

I can always remember one particular exercise one learnt in stages: first came letters, then came words, and finally sentences. One perfectly outrageous sentence was "A thrifty thief a tug has." It took me three

hours to write one page and actually I didn't know where the "m" was. I took a chance and always struck the same key for "m" but it turned out to be a comma. At lunch time the wireless was turned on and we listened to the news. Afterwards we all helped with washing up—two after every meal. Then we went into the lounge and listened to a Talking Book and then went for a walk.

We got back to tea at 3.45, and from 4 till 6.30 kind people read to us and helped us with cross-words. After supper the procedure was much the same: we were left entirely to ourselves.

A MIXED BAG.

The crowd of people there was rather a mixed bag, from a girl of seventeen to a very dominant old lady of eighty-five.

A little Polish Jewess sent to England to learn English for two vears. In 1938 she wanted to back, but her parents said 'no' (it was the beginning of the Polish trouble) so staying that extra year she never saw her parents again. It was arranged for her to join the W.A.A. F.S. After a while her sight hegan to go, but she was not quite T.B., but very near. Another woman said the second V-bomb struck the house where she was and all she remembered was carrying her daughter out. called "Mother, mother!" and two days after, when she came to, learnt there was a tremendous amount of splintered glass in her body and eyes. To our joy one day she said: "My glasses are coming to-morrow. They came; she saw, and we were just as overjoyed as she was. old lady who had been seconded to various places-was at Long Meadow.

She came down one Saturday morning and said "Are you Miss Whitaker?" to which I replied "Yes." Then she said: "I had a bath last night. Thank goodness that's over for a week. You have a bath every day don't you? You must be

dirty!" I said "It makes you nice and warm for the night." To which she replied: "Oh! I thought there was some reason." On the day of the Oxford and Cambridge boat race there was some talk of Cambridgo having caught a crab, the old lady was very interested and said "I didn't know there were crabs in the Thames."

Another thing we did at the home was our own washing and ironing Washing was rather amazing. One nearly got drowned every time. Ironing was very intricate, too. It's a very difficult thing to iron straps. Normally one locates them with one's finger, but when one pushes the hot iron up to that finger it is not a joke!

NO GUIDE.

At one time I was the only T.B. there and in the village was a man, also T.B., and it was thought good that I should compare notes with him as he might be able to give me some ideas. He came to see me and I said "By the way, where is your guide?" He replied, "I don't have a guide." I said, "How on earth do you do it?" He said: "Come for a walk with me to-morrow afternoon and I will show you." That night I prayed that he or I would die. We went next day and came perfectly safely through, not main roads even, but through byelanes.

Sunday afternoon in spring we rowed on the Thames. It is rather fine then. There are guide ropes down to the boat house, and always sighted people to help. Blind people rowed and a sighted person coxed.

The food was extremely good. As it was a farm we had rather more than people had in towns. A great feature was cream on Sundays.

Finally, we are all, I think, generally speaking, born with five senses. When we lose one it doesn't mean that the other four are either impaired or improved. A lot of people think that hearing is improved when sight goes. That is a fallacy. What it is that is improved is one's concentration and I suppose it is actually putting two and two together (and sometimes making five).

Another thing, people sometimes say: "I should love to be a fly on the wall." well blind people very often are—one hears "Does she take sugar in her tea?"

Moving a vote of thanks to the speaker, the chairman said they were deeply grateful to Miss Whitaker for coming to their meeting and taking them on such an interesting voyage of discovery and he hoped she would take back with her to Kingwilliamstown as pleasant a memory as they had of that afternoon. (Applause.)

He thanked those present for their attendance, and the meeting closed.



SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS, GIFTS.

(Including Amount Credited to Capital Fund)
From 1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

	0				£	s.	d.
	£	S.	d.	Dames Cassal & Conduis	æ	5.	u.
Adams, T. S. Esq.	2	2	0	Bowen, Sessel & Goudvis,	3	3	0
Adendorff. Mr. J. C.	1	0	0	Messrs (Contland)	1	1	0
African & European In-				Breese, Mrs. (Scotland)	4	0	0
vestment Co., Ltd.		10	0	Brevis, Mr. & Mrs	4	10	0
Allen. Mrs.	1	0	0	Brevis. Mr. P. G.	-		0
Alliance Building Society	5	5	0	Brownstein, Mr. J.	5	5	0
Anderson. J. D., Esq.	1	1	0	Brunsdon, Miss S. E.	2	0	
African Explosives &				Caltex (Africa), Ltd.	5	5	0
Chemical Industries	10	10	0	Campbell, Mr. & Mrs. E. D.	2	2	0
Anglo American Corp. of				Canning, Miss	1	1	0
South Africa, Ltd.	10	10	0	Cape Argus	5	0	0
Anglo - Transvaal Consoli-				Cape Times, Ltd.	10	0	0
dated Investment Co,				Cargill & Morrison, The	_		
Ltd.	10	10	0	Misses	1		0
Anon. (Alice)	1	1	0	Carlisle, Miss D.	1	1	0
Anon. (Appreciation)	1	10	0	Central News Agency	5	_	0
Anon. (D)	5	0	0	Chatterton, Miss P.	2	2	0
Anon. (Goodwood) Anon. (Grahamstown)	1	0	0	Cliffe, C. R. & Neale,			
Anon. (Grahamstown)	5	0	0	Messrs	10	10	0
Anon. (Refund)	1	7	0	Clydesdale (Transvaal)			
Anon. (per Miss Whitaker)	10	0	0	Collieries, Ltd	3	3	0
Apex Mines, Ltd.	2	2	0	Cockerton, Mrs.	4	0	0
Arderne, Scott, Timbers.				Coetzee, Miss Renzie		10	0
Ltd.	2	2	0	Cohen, Mrs. T.	5	0	0
Attersuch, Mrs. E.	3	3	0	Comley, R. Esq.		10	0
Aucamp, Miss C.	1	0	0	Condon, Mrs.		5	0
Austin, Captain		2	6	Corlett, Messrs. D. F. (Pty)			
Ayliff. Miss Rose		5	0	Ltd Creswick, Mrs.	5	6	0
D M	4	-	0	Creswick, Mrs.	1	0	0
Bacon, Mrs	1	1	0	Currey. Ewan S. Esq.	5	5	0
Bamford & Athol Frank,	4	4	0	Cuthbert & Co., W. M. Ltd.	10	10	0
Messrs.	1		0	De Beers Consolidated			
Bannantyne, The Misses.	2	_	0	Mines, Ltd.	25	0	0
Barclay's Bank (D.C.& O.)		10	0	De Kock, Mrs.	1	0	6
Barford, Miss Vera	2		0	De Kock, Mrs. Dewar, Chas. H. Esq.	1	1	0
Barnes, Mr. & Mrs. H. R.	$\frac{2}{2}$		0	Dick, Mrs. R	1	2	0
Barratt, Mrs. Barrett, M. E., Esq.	Z		0	Dixon, Mr. & Mrs. W. G.			
Bateman, Edward L. (Pty.)		15	0	(Interest from W.			
Ltd	-		0	Gordon Dixon Trust			
	5		0	Fund)	4	0	0
Barrow, John (Pty.), Ltd.	1		0	Dorman, Long (Africa)			
Beatty, G. H., Esq.	5		0	Ltd	5	5	0
Bennett, Mrs	1	1	0	Douglas, Low & Co, Messrs.	2	2	0
Bligh, Dr. Elizabeth	1	1	0	Duncan, Mrs		10	0
Bond, Mr. & Mrs. W. P.	2	2	0	Dunn, Mr. F. T	1	1	0

	£	e	d.		£	s.	d.
Durban Board of Executors	a.	5.	CI.			0	0
& Trust Co. Ltd.	25	0	0	Henwoods, Ltd.		5	0
Eardley-Wilmot (Exchange			Ū	Herbst, Miss Bertha		10	0
on cheque)		1	0	Hewitt. Dr. J.	1	1	0
E.P. Guardian Co.	10	0	0	Holliday, Mrs. O.	1	0	0
Eccles. Mrs.	1		0	Hullah, Mr. & Mrs. (Eng.)	2	0	0
Espin, C. E., Esq.	1	0	0	Hunt Leuchars & Hepburn,			
Etheridge, The Rt. Rev.				Ltd., Messrs.	2	2	0
Bishop	1	1	0	Immerman, Mr. A.		10	0
Evans & Co. Ltd., Messrs.	2		0	Impey, Mr. & Mrs. B. H.	2	2	3
Farrer, E. Esq.	10	0	0				
Farwell, Miss E. D. M.	1	1	0	Jackson, E. L. Esq.	2	2	0
Federated Employers'				Jagger & Co., Messrs. J. W.	2	2	0
Mutual Assurance Co.,				Johannesburg Cons. Invest-			
Ltd	3	3	0	ment Co., Ltd. (Barnato			_
Fergusson Bros., Messrs	2	2	0			10	0
Fitzgerald, Mrs.		8	0	Johnstone & Co., Ltd., W. F.	5	5	0
Flanagan, P. L. Esq,	2	2	0	Kahn, Mr. S.	1	7	0
Friede, Mrs. H.	3	3	0	Kannemeyer, Mrs.	3	3	0
Friel, B. N., Esq.	1	1	6	Keir, James, Esq.	2	2	0
Gant, Mr. & Mrs.	1	1	0	Kelly, Mr. Peter	1	1	6
Garlicks Interests	1	1	0	Kelly, Mrs. Wyndham	1	6	0
Garnett, Mrs.	1	0	0	Kidd, Mrs. Driver	1	0	0
General Mining & Finance				Kidger, C. E., Esq.	2	2	6
Corp., Ltd	10	10	0	Lefebvre, Mrs.	1	0	0
Glasier, Miss C. M.	2	2	0	Lennon, Ltd., Messrs	2	2	0
Godlonton, Miss E	5	0	6	Levin, Miss F.	1	1	0
Godlonton, M. G., Esq. (in				Levisseur, Mrs.	1	0	0
memory of D'Urban				Lilford, A. Esq. (2 years)	2	2	0
Godlonton, Lt. S.A.A.F.					0	0	0
12/8/44)	10	0	0	Lubbe, Mrs. Anna		5	0
Gordon, Peter		10	0	MacGillivray, W. Neil, Esq.	5	0	0
Goss, Mrs.	1	0	0	Mackenzie, George, Esq.	2	2	0
Graham, Miss E.	1	0	0	Mackinnon, Mrs.		10	0
Graham, Mrs. Frank		15	0	Mailer & Co.	2	2	0
Graham, Mrs. M.	2	0	0	Mapham, Mrs. H. M.	1	1	6
Grant, Mrs. St. John	2	2	0	Mardall, Mrs.	1	1	0
Greaterman's Stores, Ltd.	3	3	0	Marillier, Miss E. F.	1	0	0
Greathead, Mrs. J. B	1	1	0	Marks, Mr. Albert E.	1	11	0
Green, Mrs. G.		10	0	Massey, G. D., Esq.		1	0
Groenewald, Mrs. H.		5	0		1		0
Grosse, Mrs. & Miss	1	0	0	Matthews, Mrs. J. E.	1	0	0
Guard, Miss C.	1	2	0	Moberley, Dr. G. K.	5	5	6
Gush, Mrs.		10	6	Mosenthals Ltd.	3	3	0
Haldane, J., Esq.		7	6	Mullins, Miss Laura (sale			
Hall, The Misses A. & G.	2	0	0	of rosettes)	15	0	0
Halsey, B., Esq	10	10	0	Munro, Mrs. A. W.	1	0	0
Hamilton, Mr. A. H.	2	2	0	Murray, Mrs. F. B.	2	10	6
Hannington, Mrs.	1	0	0	Neely, Mrs. T. R.		5	0
Hartwell, Miss V. E.	2	2	0	Nel, Mr. J. D.	1	0	0
Hay, Errol, Esq	3	3	0	Newby, Miss	1	0	0

	£	S.	d.		£	s.	d.
New Consolidated Goldfields				Stubbs, Miss Ivy		10	0
	10	0	0	Stuttaford & Co., Ltd.,			
Ltd. Newdigate, Miss E.	1		0	Messrs.	1	1	0
Nicholas, D. L. Esq.	1		0	Syfret's Trust Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
Ohlsson's Cape Breweries				Symes, Miss Page-		10	0
Ltd.	2	2	0	Tarry, Messrs. E. W. &			
O.K. (1929) Bazaars, Ltd.	5	5	0	Co	5	5	0
		17	6	Taylor, Mrs. A. A.		5	0
Ommaney, Mrs. Orr, John & Co.	5	5	0	Thatcher, Miss A.	1	0	0
Palmer, BrigGen. C. C.			0	Thompson, James (Pty.),			
		5	0	Ltd.	2	2	0
Prout, Mrs. Putterill, Mrs.	1		0	Thomson, Samuel, Esq.	10	0	0
Rand Daily Mail Ltd.			0	Thrupp & Co., Messrs.	3	3	0
Randles Bro. & Hudson	10	0	U	Tribolet, Mrs	1	1	0
Ltd.	5	5	0	Trustees, Charles James			
Rand Mines, Ltd.			0	(Lilieshall) Trust	21	0	0
Rand Provident Building	10	10	U	Tweedie. Mr. Ronald (in			
Society Sunding	2	9	0	memory of Miss Black-			
	1		0		1	0	0
Poolog Mys		1	0	well) Twine, Mr		10	0
Reeler, Mrs. Robb, Mr. D.	,	5	0	Unger (Estate of the late			
Rogers, Rev. A. S.		0	0	F. A. Unger. Esq)	5	5	0
Rooiberg Minerals Develop-	1			Union-Castle Mail S.S. Co.,			
ment Co., Ltd	2	2	0	Ltd.	2	2	0
Scheuble, Mrs. A. E.		5	0	Union Corporation, Ltd.	20		0
Schoeman, Miss A. C.		10	0	United Building Society	25	0	0
Shearer, Thomas, Esq.	2	2	0	Vacuum Oil of South Africa			
Shell Co. of South Africa		5	0	Africa, Ltd.	3	3	0
Sleading & Tidmarsh, The			Ü	Van der Linde, Mr. J. H.		0	0
Misses	1	1	0	Van Niekerk, Mr. C. W.		10	0
Smith, A. N., Esq	2	2	0	Van Velden, Mr. A. C.	1		0
Smith, Miss Town		10	0	Varder, Mrs.	1	0	0
South & General Invest-				Venter, Mr. E.	1	0	0
ment & Trust Co., Ltd.	2	2	0	Venter, The Misses C. &			
South African Druggists			0	M. Coetzee		10	0
S.A. General Electric Co.,				Vernal, Mrs.	2	2	0
Ltd	5	5	0	Vincent, Mrs	2		0
Spilhaus & Co., Wm. Ltd.	1	1	0	Vincent, Mrs Viney, A. D., Esq.	2	2	0
Spong, Miss Ada M.		10	6	Waldorf, Ltd.	1	1	0
Spreckley, Mrs.	3	3	0	Wallis, Mrs. J. G.	5	0	0
Sprigg, Miss J.		10	0	Whiteley, P. Esq.,	5	5	0
Standard Bank of South				Wiles, C. C., Esq.		10	0
Africa, Ltd.	10	10	0	Wiles, Mr. & Mrs. C. C.			
				(in memory of Mrs.			
"Star" The	10	10	0	Vernal)		10	6
Stent, Mr. G. E.	2	2	0	Will, Mrs. (Ceylon)	1	1	0
Stidolph, Miss	1	0	0	Willmott, Miss F. M.		10	0
Strachan, Mrs.	1	1	6	Winter-Moore, Mrs.	1	1	0
Strathmore Exploration &				Winter-Moore, Mrs. (in			
Management, Ltd.	2	2	0	memory of Mrs. G.			
Struben, Frank E. B. Esq.	3	3	0	Graham)		7	6

	£	S.	d.	£ s. d.
Wood, Miss B. C.		1	0	Grahamstown 3 10 0
Wood, Mrs. Henry	1			Hermanus 1 10 0
Wright, Mrs. Milburn (in	_		Ü	Idutywa (Standard Bank) 8 10 0
memory of Mossie van				
Niekerk)	1	1	0	Kimberley 3 10 0 King William's Town 8 14 0
				Ladysmith (Natal) 1 16 8
Street Collection				Malmesbury 7 0
Grahamstown	44	3	11	Middelburg (Cape) 2 5 0
Schools				Nqamakwe 1 12 0
Burt House, High School				Oudtshoorn 15 0
for Girls, Queenstown	1	0	0	Pietermaritzburg 3 5 0
D.S.G., Grahamstown	5	0	0	Port Alfred 1 15 0
Johanensburg High School				Port Elizabeth 2 11 0
for Girls, Barnato Park	5	5	0	Pretoria 11 10 0
V.G.H.S. Macdonald House				Queenstown 2 16 0
(proceeds of concert)	12	3	6	Queenstown 2 16 0 Rondebosch 2 10 0
~				Simonstown 2 0 6
Societies				Tarkastad 13 6
Eastern Areas Sub-Dist.				Umtata 10 0
Bowling Association				Uitenhage 1 15 0
(Tribe Pairs)	6	0	0	Wellington 2 16 5
East London Branch				Witbank Club 4 10 0
N.H.R.U	1	1	0	Wynberg 8 1 0
East London Society for				
Civilian Blind	5	5	0	£1,102 18 0
Grahamstown Cathedral				Bequest, the late C. F.
Lay Council (special				King, Esq. 250 0 0
collection)	2	5	0	
Gwatyn-Bolotwa Ladies,				£1,352 18 0
per Miss Dicks	17	0	0	
Johannesburg Civilian				
Blind Society	5	5	0	Grants for Talking Book Equipment
Maritzburg Civilian				Harvey, Miss H. R. 800 0 0
Blind Society	2	0	0	S.A. National Council
Rhodesian Society to Help				for the Blind 50 0 0
	10		0	
St. Dunstan's, S.A.	001	0	0	£850 0 0
Staff, Main Store,				Divisional Councils
Randfontein	4	0	0	Albany 5 0 0
				Port Elizabeth 10 0 0
Public Libraries and Other (Coll	ect	ing	
Boxes				£15 0 0
Aliwal North,	11	15	0	
Bannerman House	1		6	
Barberton		13	3	Provincial Councils. Grants-in-Aid
Bedford		10	0	Cape Province 200 0 0
Benoni		15	0	Natal 50 0 0
Boksburg	4	0	0	Orange Free State. 35 0 0
Bloemfontein		17	6	Transvaal 150 0 0
Colesberg		12	6	1105
East London		17	0	£435 0 0
Ermelo	1	1	0	

				£	S.	d.		£	s.	d.
Social 1	Velfar	e. Gr	ants-	in-A	id		Somerset West	3	3	0
Social Welf.	are			200	0	0	Uitenhage	10	0	0
Bocial Well							Vereeniging	10	0	0
Municipalities							Wellington	5	0	0
Beaufort W	est			2	0	0	Witbank	5	0	0
Benoni				12	12	0				
Boksburg				5	5	0		£130	6	0
Cradock				10	10	0				
Fish Hoek				5	5	0	Provident Fund for the Sou	ath A	fric	an
George .				1	1	0				
Germiston				10	0	0	Library for the Bli	nd		
Grahamstow	n			10	0	0	Bennie, Mrs. B. E. H.	10	1	U
Johannesbur	g.			25	0	0	Emslie, Miss	6	14	8
Knysna .				5	0	0	Strachan, Mrs.	3	0	0
Parow				1	1	0	Anon.	2	14	2
Queenstown				2	2	0				
Roodepoort				5	5	()		22	9	10
Simon's Tov	vn			2	2	0				_



	Bequests		£.	s.	d.
1924	Bannerman Bequest		1500	0	0
1930	CarnegieCorporation Grant		1200	0	0
1933	Helen Robertson Bequest		10	0	0
1933	Ellen Wisely Bequest		50	0	0
1936	Carnegie Corporation Grant		1000	0	0
1937	Bequest—R. H. Struben, Esq.		250	0	0
1938	Bequest—E. W. Howard, Esq.		250	0	0
1938	Bequest—H. E. R. Sherry, Esq.		50	0	0
1939	Bequest—Dr. H. E. H. Oakley		250	0	0
1939	Bequest—Robert Godlonton, Esq.		500	0	0
1949	Bequest—E. W. Howard, Esq.		50	0	0
1943	Ross Bequest		283	7	4
1944	Bequest-Miss J. McPherson	- A-W	25	0	0
1945	Bequest-W. Herley, Esq.		10	0	0
1947	Bequest-H. J. King, Esq.		417	18	9
1947	Bequest—Geo. Game, Esq.		500	0	0
1949	Bequest—C. F. King, Esq.	 40 A 40 L	250	0	0



RULES.

- 1. The books are lent free of charge.
- 2. The books go by post by special rate to any part of the Union.

 (For rates see back of cover.) Books must not be sent by rail.
- 3. Readers are requested to send a list of books required, and to return each volume as soon as read.
- A volume may be kept for one month unless needed for study, when, with the permission of the Librarian, it may be kept for a longer period.
- Readers are asked not to keep magazines or knitting patterns, but to return each one with the book with which it is sent.
- Readers are begged to take great care of the books, to keep them clean and free from damp, and not to turn down pages.
- 7. Canvas covers, cardboard covers or strong paper and string are used for packing the books. Readers should pack the books carefully in these for return postage.
- 8. Readers are begged to let the Librarian know at once of any change of address.
- 9. Any infectious or contagious illness shall at once be notified to the Librarian.
- 10. Anyone wanting to borrow books should send a letter of reference from a J.P., a clergyman or other well-known person acquainted with them.
- 11. All letters referring to books, Braille paper, etc., should be addressed to:

THE SECRETARY,

South African Library for the Blind, Grahamstown.

POSTAL REGULATIONS.

LITERATURE FOR THE BLIND.

Papers of any kind, periodicals, and books, impressed or to be impressed in "Braille," or other special type for the use of the blind, when posted within the Union for transmission to a place within the Union, are transmissible at the rate given below, provided that they—

- (a) do not contain any communication, either in writing or printed in ordinary type, except the title and table of contents of the book or periodical and any key to or instructions for the use of the special type, or any enclosure except a label for the return of the packet;
- (b) bear on the outside the inscription "Literature for the Blind," and the name and address of the sender;
- (c) be posted either without a cover or in a cover open at both ends which can easily be removed for examination of the contents;

For a packet not exceeding 3lb. in weight	⅓d.
For a packet exceeding 3lb. and not exceeding 7lb	1d.
For a packet exceeding 7lb, and not exceeding 11lb	1½d.
For a packet exceeding 11lb. and not exceeding 15lb. 6oz	2d.

The limit of weight is 15 lb. 6 oz., and the maximum dimensions are the same as for letters.

Voice records on discs, styled "Talking Book records," securely packed, are also transmissible at the above rates, provided they are despatched from or addressed to certain recognised institutes for the blind. (Page 33, Post Office Guide, September, 1947.)

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND, GRAHAMSTOWN. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

LIABILITIES	;			ASSETS	
SUNDRY CREDITORS	€ s. d.	35	s. d. 16 2 0 0	As at 31st December, 1948 2,830 2 4 Less Depreciation 1% 30 2 4	s. d
DEVELOPMENT FUND STAFF PROVIDENT FUND. Balance as at 31st December, 1948 Add Interest	2,688 4 2 32 2 9	1,000	0 0	BOOKS AND CASES. As at 31st December, 1948 (60 19 9 Additions during the year 322 5 9	0 (
Society's Contribution Public Donations	50 0 0 42 4 6			Less Depreciation 25% 923 5 6 243 5 6 740 (0 0
Less Withdrawais	2,812 11 5 180 0 6		10 11	FURNITURE AND FITTINGS As at 31st December, 1948 Additions during the year 23 13 6	, 0
STAFF SAVINGS FUND REPAIRS RESERVE FUND CAPITAL ACCOUNT.			7 14 3	Less Depreciation 7½% . 375 8 2 25 8 2	0 0
Balance as at 31st December, 1948 Add Gift Books Special Donations	9,367 2 8 80 0 0 850 0 0			TALKING BOOK RECORDS AND EQUIPMENT As at 31st December, 1948 Additions during the year (less realisations) 681 5 0) ()
Less Deficit for year BANK OVERDRAFT.	10,297 2 8 87 10 2	10,209		Less Depreciation 33½ % 357 6 6 1,100 0) ()
Standard Bank, Grahamstown.		70	14 3	STOCK ON HAND. Paper and Sundries 19 3 0 Needles 4 9 0	
				SUNDRY DEBTORS. Accrued Grants PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE. DEVELOPMENT FUND INVESTMENT South African Permanent Mutual and Investment Society: Fixed) ()
				Deposit	
				STAFF SAVINGS FUND INVESTMENTS Eastern Province Building Society Deposits 374 6	
				GENERAL INVESTMENTS. PAID UP SHARES: United Building Society 1,600 0 0 Eastern Province Building Society 300 0 0 South African Permanent Mutual Building and Investment Society 500 0 0	
				Eastern Province Guardian Loan & Investment Company 50 0 0 Eastern Province Building Society 214 0 0 Grahamstown Building Society 800 0 0 Grahamstown Municipality 300 0 0	
				CASH AT CALL AND ON HAND. Eastern Province Building Society Eastern Province Guardian Loan & 1,028 7 10 Investment Company 707 6 0 Cash on Hand 9 17 5	0
		01 4 5 40	9 1	1,745 11	
		£14,546	0 1	£14,546 8	1

We certify that we have examined the books and accounts of the South African Library for the Blind in respect of the year ended the 31st December, 1949, and have satisfied ourselves as to the existence of the securities; proper books and accounts have been kept, and we have obtained all the information and explanations we have required; in our opinion the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn ap so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Library's affairs according to the best of our knowledge and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the library as at the 31st December, 1949.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

EXPENDITURE						INCOME		a			•	,
To Salaries and Wages Rates and Taxes , Advertising, Printing and Stationery Accountancy Charges Insurance Lighting	£	s. ć		£ s. 225 3 27 5 91 18 12 0 12 0 10 18	d. 6 6 0 0 6 5	By Donation, Subscriptions, & Collections Rents Receivable Department of Social Welfare GRANTS: PROVINCIAL COUNCILS: Natal	50		0	. 135 8 20	$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$	s. d. 8 0 0 0 0 0
"Repairs and Maintenance "Sundry Expenses "Donations to Institutions "Contribution to Braille Magazine "Postages and Stamps "Staff Provident Fund Contribution "Delegates Expenses			:	68 15 110 1 57 12 21 0 83 12 50 0 5 9	3 10 0 0 9 0 4	Cape O.F.S. Transvaal DIVISIONAL COUNCILS: Port Elizabeth Albany	200 35 150 	0	0	435	0	0
, Depreciation: Property @ 1% Furniture @ 7½% p.a.	25	2 4 8 2	2			MUNICIPALITIES: ,. Interest and Dividends			_	15 130 126	6	0 0 5
Books @ 25% p.a. Talking Books Equipment @ 333% p.a.	243 357	5 6	;	656 2	6	,, Deficit for year				2,343 87		5 2
			£2,4	430 19	7					£2,430	19	7

